connectivity in rural areas of the country. The programme envisages connecting all habitations with a population of 500 persons and above (250 persons and above in respect of hill States, tribal and desert areas) with all weather roads. PMGSY is all Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The Government of India has also identified 'Rural Roads' as one of the six components of 'Bharat Nirman' with a goal to provide connectivity to all habitations with a population of 1000 persons and above (500 persons and above in case of hill States, tribal and desert areas) with an all-weather road by 2009.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Release of NREGS funds to beneficiaries

2704. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to ensure that all margins or the pilferage of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) funds are plugged;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now been engaged in the process of ensuring release of funds to beneficiaries only in their accounts in banks and post offices; and

(d) if so, the time by which payments to beneficiaries from NREGS funds are likely to be given through banks or post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to ensure that pilferage of NREGS funds is plugged, Ministry of Rural Development has taken various steps. These include strict monitoring, social audit, development of a web based Management Information System (MIS), inspection of works, establishment of a National toll free Helpline for grievance redressal, wage payment through worker's accounts in banks/post offices and awareness generation about NREGA through intensive IEC activities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Disbursement of wages through accounts in banks/post offices is linked with the availability of banks/postal network in an area. Department of Financial Services has been requested to take action for expanding the outreach of financial services so that wage payment can be made entirely through NREGA worker's accounts. In view of this, it is not possible to fix a time for making entire wage payment through Banks/Post Offices.

Implementation of NREGS in Assam

2705. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of job card holders who have been provided work or otherwise for 100 days during the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 in Assam district wise;

(b) how the wage rate of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is stipulated in those districts; and

(c) the details of the projects under the scheme which have been implemented and status of utilisation of funds during the said financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) District-wise data is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) Wages are paid to the NREGA workers in accordance with the wage rate as provided in Section 6 of the Act. Section 6(1) provides that Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of this Act provided that the wage rate notified by the Centre shall not be less than Rs. 60 per day.

Section 6(2) of NREGA provides that until such time as a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wage fixed by the State Governments under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers shall be the wage rate applicable to that area.

Central Government has notified wage rate for NREGA workers under Section 6(1) of the Act with effect from 1.1.2009. Prior to this date, wage rate as notified by the State Government of Assam under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labourers was applicable under NREGA.

(c) During the year 2007-08, NREGA was in operation in 13 districts of Assam. A total of 11855 works were taken up under NREGA and an expenditure of Rs. 549,15 crore was incurred by the State Government. During the Financial Year 2008-09, the Act was made operational in the rural areas of all the districts of the State. A total of 17098 works were taken up and an expenditure of Rs. 953.80 crore was incurred by the State Government.

Statement

NREGA performance of Assam under NREGA

Sl.No.	State	Employment provided		Household completed 100 days of employment	
		FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09	FY 2007-08	FY 2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Bongaigaon	296221	78124	35018	29628
2	Dhemaji	91265	92805	16228	9578
3	Goalpara	100528	72319	1779	0
4	Karbi Anglong	184884	178161	0	0
5	Kokrajhar	188226	170510	133640	95225
6	Lakhimpur	64677	74360	35837	29124
7	North Cachar Hills	29980	28040	4447	5102

1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Barpeta	172149	91378	7222	105
9	Cachar	12781	90118	0	3991
10	Darrang	93242	107778	4874	771
11	Hailakandi	37772	89186	0	40
12	Marigaon	80058	56353	158	1110
13	Nalbari	51105	70000	270	1347
14	Baska	NA	23871	NA	85
15	Chirang	NA	109225	NA	0
16	Dhubri	NA	49813	NA	2
17	Dibrugarh	NA	28559	NA	0
18	Golaghat	NA	48285	NA	120
19	Jorhat	NA	57302	NA	16
20	Kamrup	NA	96098	NA	0
21	Kamrup (Metro)	NA	6180	NA	2
22	Karimganj	NA	18608	NA	2
23	Nagaon	NA	84675	NA	0
24	Sivasagar	NA	29090	NA	253
25	Sonitpur	NA	68520	NA	70
26	Tinsukia	NA	15552	NA	207
27	Udalguri	NA	42483	NA	0
	TOTAL :	1402888	1877393	239473	176778

NA implies not applicable as NREGA was extended to these districts from 1.4.2008.

Black-marketing of food grain under SGRY

2706. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were number of cases of selling of thousands of quintals of foodgrains in black market which was released under Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was registered in various districts of Assam for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the guilty booked, so far?